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| EXAMINER |
|---|
| NGUYEN, ALLEN H |

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

| | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **Office Action Summary** | 10/632,540 | EARL ET AL. |
| | **Examiner** | **Art Unit** | |
| | Allen H. Nguyen | 2625 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *31 July 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.        2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *31 July 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

# DETAILED ACTION

## *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1.     The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35

U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2.     Claims 1-4, 6-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated

by Nakaoka et al. (US 2002/0186408).

Regarding claim 1, Nakaoka '408 discloses a method for printing on a

printer that is proximal to a subscriber having access to a database registry,

comprising the steps of:

maintaining the database registry on a network by way of a server

computer (i.e., the print portal server has a status collecting module that collects

a current status with regard to the predetermined maintenance-management item

from each of the printing apparatuses via the network connected to a database;

see page 2, paragraph [0028], fig. 6, the print portal server 100);

registering at least two printers with the database registry (Printer

Database 152 with registering a plurality of Printing Stations, figs. 1, 8);

determining a location of the subscriber using a standard location-determining device in response to receiving a request for printing of a print job from a computer of the subscriber on one of the at least two printers registered with the database registry (i.e., when the user clicks a dialog box for specifying the printer where the printer of the desired output resource is located, the exact locations of all the available printers registered in the print portal service PS are displayed; see page 11, paragraph [0243], fig. 15);

determining which printer of the at least two printers is most proximal to the subscriber (i.e., information registered in a printer database 152 is utilized for the search. The application unit 180 includes a printer management unit 305 as the functional block of determining for the output resource; see page 19, paragraph [0355], fig. 41);

transferring the print job from the computer to the printer that is most proximal to the subscriber (i.e., the search conditions is the output resource closest to the current location of the client MP. The current location of the client MP may be specified by a landmark like a near-by building or a near-by station; page 19, paragraph [0356]).

Regarding claim 2, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, further comprising the steps of:

establishing a connection with the server and identifying the subscriber to the server(i.e., a print portal server that intermediates between multiple content provider servers and multiple printing apparatuses to execute a printing operation

in response to an instruction from a client connected to a network; see page 3, paragraph [0040]);

determining whether the subscriber has a preference of how their location is determined (i.e., When the user completes the specification of the output resource and the printing conditions, the specified information is transmitted to the print portal PP (see Sa04 in FIG. 3 and FIG. 2). The print portal PP selects the printing service provider PSP1 as the destination of transmission of a print job, based on the received information, and transfers the print job to the selected printing service provider PSP1 (see Sa05 in FIG. 3 and FIG. 2). Here the printing service provider PSP1, which manages the printing station PS11 designated by the user as the output resource, is selected as the destination of transmission of the print job; see page 7, paragraph [0172]);

monitoring location request information from a GPS receiver in the computer if the preference of the subscriber is to determine their location by way of integrated GPS (a Global Positioning System to the client MP and monitors the output of the GPS, page 19, paragraph [0356]), otherwise requesting location information by way of the server from a cell-phone service provider using a number registered by the subscriber if the preference of the subscriber is to use a cell-phone to identify their location (i.e., fig. 4 shows an interface window for designating the output resource. Available printing stations are enumerated for the designation of the output resource may cause the use to select one among available printing service providers on the first stage of the hierarchical designation; see page 7, paragraph [0170]).

Regarding claim 3, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, further comprising the step of:

searching a database in the server to locate a printer at the location of the subscriber (i.e., the printer management unit 305 refers to the printer database 152, searches for the printers meeting the specified search conditions, and displays the result of the search as a printer list on the client MP; see page 19, paragraph [0357], fig. 41).

Regarding claim 4, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, wherein said searching step comprises the step of:

comparing distances between the subscriber and the at least two printers to determine the printer that is most proximal to the subscriber (i.e., the user specifies search conditions of the output resource with the client MP. One example of the search conditions is the output resource closest to the current location of the client MP. The current location of the client MP may be specified by a landmark like a near-by building or a near-by station; see page 19, paragraph [0356]).

Regarding claim 6, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, further comprising the step of:

providing the subscriber with a message that informs the subscriber that no printers are at the location of the subscriber (i.e., fig. 30 shows connection in the case of printing Web pages. In this example, the user requires printing Web

pages browsed on a mobile computer PC, while there is no printer locally

connected to the printer PC; page 15, paragraph [0292]).

Regarding claim 7, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, further comprising

the step of:

sending a list of printer descriptions to the subscriber from the server if

more than one printer is at the location of the subscriber (fig. 58 shows an

exemplified interface in the process of printing the registered content).

Regarding claim 8, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, wherein the

subscriber chooses the printer on which to print (i.e., the printing service provider

PSP1, which manages the printing station PS11 designated by the user as the

output resource, is selected as the destination of transmission of the print job;

page 7, paragraph [0172], fig. 2).

Regarding claim 9, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, further comprising

the step of:

transmitting printer capability information to the computer (i.e., the function

of controlling a printing requirement transmitted from the upper-layer portal

module collects the working status of each printing apparatus via communication

and transmits the printing requirement only to an available printing apparatus that

stands by for printing; page 3, paragraph [0035]).

Regarding claim 10, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, wherein the

subscriber chooses the capabilities of the printer based on the transmitted printer

capability information (i.e., the print portal PP subsequently provides the client

MP with interfaces for specifying the output resource and printing conditions; see

Sa03 in fig. 3 and fig. 2).

Regarding claim 11, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, further

comprising the steps of:

choosing the capabilities of the printer based on the transmitted printer

capability information (i.e., the print portal PP subsequently provides the client

MP with interfaces for specifying the output resource and printing conditions; see

Sa03 in fig. 3 and fig. 2);

sending a page description to the server (i.e., a page description

language, such as Postscript, may alternatively be used as the general purpose

format; page 8, paragraph [0195]).

Regarding claim 12, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, further

comprising the steps of:

determining whether the page description requires conversion (i.e., the DF

interface 136 causes the file conversion unit 110 to carry out the file conversion

according to the picked-up message; page 9, paragraph [0205], fig. 9);

transmitting the page description to the printer if the page does not require

conversion (i.e., the function of controlling a printing requirement transmitted from

the upper-layer portal module collects the working status of each printing

apparatus via communication and transmits the printing requirement only to an

available printing apparatus that stands by for printing; page 3, paragraph[0035]),

otherwise converting the page description into a format suitable for printing on

the printer and transmitting the converted page description to the printer if the

page description requires conversion (i.e., the file conversion unit 110 functions

to convert the content to the page description format. Conversion of the print data

to this format advantageously enables output of the print data to a diversity of

printers; page 8, paragraph [0195]);

printing a page on the printer (i.e., the page description format allows

conversion from practically any print data including documents and pictures, so

that a wide range of contents can be the object of printing; page 8, paragraph

[0195]).


Regarding claim 13, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, wherein said

maintaining step comprises adding or removing printers from the database (i.e.,

the user may manage the contents registered in the content holder 150A. The

user can arbitrarily add contents to the registration in the content holder 150A or

delete contents from the registration in the content holder 150A; page 22,

paragraph [0424], fig. 51).

Regarding claim 14, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, further

comprising the step of:

automatically determining the location of the printers when adding the

printers to the database (ID information allocated to each printer, page 18,

paragraph [0343], fig. 22).


Regarding claim 15, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, wherein said

maintaining step comprises providing authorization for the subscriber to access

the database (i.e., the printer name, the ID number, and the authorized users

with authentication for access are some registered pieces of the printer database

152; page 8, paragraph [0201], fig. 8).


Regarding claim 16, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, further

comprising the step of:

accessing the database to enroll an organization such that the

organization can provide printing services (i.e., the print portal PP refers to the

registered information and verifies the identity of the logging-on user as an

authorized user having the right of access to the printer PRT; page 14, paragraph

[0280], fig. 24);

entering details of the organization (In the case of the authenticated user,

the display on the mobile phone MP is changed to a print start window, step

Sd12 in fig. 24);

storing the details of the organization in the database (i.e., the print portal

PP transmits preset banner data to the printer PRT through communication Cm5

in fig. 22 and causes the printer PRT to print a banner ad (hereinafter referred to

as the banner page) (step Sd13 in fig. 24)).


Regarding claim 17, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, which comprises

collecting the at least two printers into groups of related printers and classifying

at least two printers into groups of related printers based on ownership of the at

least two printers by specific organizations (i.e., the print portal system of the

embodiment preferably has a diversity of customization functionality for the

enhanced utility. The customization functionality is briefly classified into the three

groups: the functionality for users, the functionality for content providers, and the

functionality for printing service providers and printing stations; see page 21,

paragraph [0396]).


Regarding claim 18, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, which comprises

using the groups of related printers and classified groups of printers to permit or

deny the subscriber access to the database (i.e., in Cases C and D, the

information for identifying the client or the user is input from the printer, so that

specific printers are mapped to specific clients; page 18, paragraph [0345], fig.

38).

Regarding claim 19, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, wherein the

server comprises a cluster of co-operating server computers (i.e., a print portal

server that intermediates between multiple content provider servers and multiple

printing apparatuses to execute a printing operation in response to an instruction

from a client connected to a network; see page 2, paragraph [0026]).


Regarding claim 20, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, wherein the

server stores information about each subscriber that is subscribed to the system

(the user database 150 includes files provided for the respective users of the

print portal 100, page 8, paragraph [0200], fig. 7), each organization offering

printing services (Fig. 58 in the middle shows an exemplified interface in the

process of printing the registered content for offering printing station, page 22,

paragraph [0416]), a geographical location data (the content provider, which

provides a content to be printed, is linked with the print portal such as City, XX

Hotel, YY Building; see figs. 18-19), and an Internet address for the at least two

printers (i.e., the user gains access to a Web page provided by the print portal

and identifies the address of a desired content. In the case where the Web page

of the print portal is displayed by the link from an original Web page, which is the

object of printing, the URL of the original Web page may be displayed as default

information in a specific field of the print data; see page 11, paragraph [0241], fig.

19).

Regarding claim 21, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, which comprises using the geographical location data for performing comparisons and plotting positions on a map (i.e., the left-side drawing of fig. 58 illustrates a display window of the list. In this example, there are four documents, that is, `catalog`, `application form`, `instructions manual`, and `map`, registered as the contents frequently used by the user; see page 22, paragraph [0417], fig. 58).

Regarding claim 22, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, wherein the geographical information is descriptive information for use by a person (i.e., the "map" is one of four documents registered as the contents frequently used by the users; see page 22, paragraph [0417], fig. 58).

Regarding claim 23, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, further comprising the step of:

informing the subscriber that no printer is available at their location (i.e., fig. 30 shows connection in the case of printing Web pages. In this example, the user requires printing Web pages browsed on a mobile computer PC, while there is no printer locally connected to the printer PC; page 15, paragraph [0292]).

Regarding claim 24, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, further comprising the step of:

informing the subscriber of the printer location (i.e., a database called an MIB (Management Information Base) provided in each printing apparatus may be

used for collecting the current status of the printing apparatus. This arrangement

ensures accurate detection of the status of the printing apparatus; see page 2,

paragraph [0029]);

wherein the printer location comprises geographical map data (i.e., the

map registered as the contents frequently used by the user; page 22, paragraph

[0417], fig. 58).


Regarding claim 25, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, wherein said

choosing step comprises specifying a use of PostScript.RTM. language page

description for use in printing the print job (i.e., a page description language,

such as Postscript (registered trademark), may alternatively be used as the

general purpose format; see page 8, paragraph [0195]).


Regarding claim 26, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, wherein the

standard location-determining device is one of a GPS receiver  (i.e., the current

location attaches a GPS to the client MP and monitors the output of the GPS;

see page 19, paragraph [0356]) and cell-phone triangulation (a sequence of

printing for information for identifying client, figs. 38-39).


Regarding claim 27, Nakaoka '408 discloses a system for printing on a

printer that is proximal to a subscriber, comprising:

a database containing a registry of subscribers and subscribing

organizations (i.e., fig. 41 shows functional blocks and data transmission relating

to the search for the output resource. Information registered in a printer database

152 is utilized for the search. The application unit 180 includes a printer

management unit 305 as the functional block of searching; see page 19,

paragraph [0355]);

a network connected to the database (i.e., the function of gaining access

to the network and is used by a user of the print portal system; see page 2,

paragraph [0024], figs. 1, 6);

a server operatively coupled to the database (Print Portal Server coupled

to Database, fig. 6);

at least two printers operatively coupled to the database by way of the

network (fig. 1, Printing Service Provider PSP1, PSP2);

a subscriber interface operatively coupled to the at least two printers by

way of the network and at least one of a computer and a cell-phone (i.e., the

mobile phone MP corresponding to the client and a printer Photel located in the

place of accommodation; see page 17, paragraph [0328], fig. 36), a location of

said subscriber being determined by way of a standard location-determining

device (i.e., the printer of the changed output resource may be identified by the

ID number, the URI, or the IP address; see page 17, paragraph [0329], fig. 36).


Regarding claim 28, Nakaoka '408 discloses the system, further

comprising:

at least one organization computer connected to the network (i.e., noted

that Print Portal Server is organization computer coupled to the network; fig. 39);

wherein the at least one computer is used by a subscribing organizations

to access the database to enroll and enter details of the organization into the

database such that the organization can provide printing services (i.e., the print

portal PP subsequently provides the client MP with interfaces for specifying the

output resource and printing conditions; see Sa03 in fig. 3 and figs. 2, 6).

Regarding claim 29, Nakaoka '408 discloses the method, further

comprising:

subscriber user devices operatively coupled to the network for permitting

access to print services (i.e., The client is a hardware structure, which has the

function of gaining access to the network and is used by a user of the print portal

system: Personal computers and cellular phones are typical examples of the

client; see page 2, paragraph [0024], figs. 1, 4, 16).

Regarding claim 30, Nakaoka '408 discloses the system, wherein the

standard location-determining device comprises at least one of a GPS receiver

(i.e., the current location attaches a GPS to the client MP and monitors the output

of the GPS; see page 19, paragraph [0356]) and a device for performing cell-

phone triangulation (a sequence of printing for information for identifying client,

figs. 38-39).

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.    The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for

all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described
> as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to
> be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been
> obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which
> said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the
> invention was made.

4.    Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) unpatentable over Nakaoka et

al. (US 2002/0186408) in view of Watts (US 2001/0003835).

Regarding claim 5, it is noted that Nakaoka '408 does not explicitly show

the method, wherein said search is performed only for printers located in a zip

code in which the subscriber is located.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art

as evidenced by Watts '835. In particular, Watts '835 teaches the method,

wherein said search is performed only for printers located in a zip code in which

the subscriber is located (i.e., GPS informants which interface with a global

positioning system would include environment informants to determine local

environmental factors such as local area code, time zone, zip code and so on;

see page 2, paragraph [0042]).

In view of the above, having the system of Nakaoka '408 and then given

the well-established teaching of Watts '835, it would have been obvious to one

having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the

system of Nakaoka '408 as taught by Watts '835, since Watts '835 stated on

page 1, paragraph [0004] that such a modification would ensure an environment

.manager for computing and control devices.


### *Conclusion*

5.     The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

Pickup (US 6,665,712) discloses system and method for locating an

output device.

Trossen et al. (2003/0091021) discloses physically scoped multicast in

multi-access networks.

Campbell (US 2004/0008225) discloses method, apparatus, and computer

program product for providing a graphical user interface with a linear map

component.


6.     Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from

the examiner should be directed to Allen H. Nguyen whose telephone number is

571-270-1229.  The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:00 AM-

6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571)-272-7314.  The fax

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is

assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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06/08/07

AUNG S. MOE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

6/8/07